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MEMORANDUM

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TO: EUR - Mr. Merchant

FROM: RA - B.E.L. Timmons *BN*

You will be interested in the attached copy of a letter from Ray Thurston.

Messrs. Greene and Boster have seen. It was Jerry's opinion that no further action by the Department was needed. However, I doubt that we should merely let this matter proceed wholly in Defense channels (at least as far as the Washington end is concerned). Therefore, if you agree, I would like to make some discreet inquiries through General Guthrie to see if we can have a look at the documents. May I have your advice?

Attachment:

As stated.

*Seen by Kohler 1/16
and Hollibaugh 1/23.*

BN

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THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

ME (1) S - In Line
(2) RA - B-T

OFFICIAL-INFO

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American Embassy,
Paris, France,
January 9, 1959.

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Dear Lane:

I refer to your letter of January 6 concerning the discussion between the Secretary and General Norstad about the possibility of the latter's taking certain military actions in his area with an eye to the Berlin situation and Soviet intentions.

I can assure you that this is a problem which Norstad is giving priority attention. In order to prepare for meaningful action in this field, he asked JCS to send a team of experts who are now in Paris working with selected officers of EUCOM and SHAPE on a U.S. basis. In response to a request earlier this week from General Twining, Norstad yesterday sent to the JCS some highlights from the report which is in preparation giving examples of the kinds of possible actions that might be taken. These are divided into three categories, according to the situation as it may develop. Category A is the present situation, Category B activities would be taken in response to increased Soviet pressure, and Category C deals with the stage after the Soviets would turn over their Berlin responsibilities to the GDR. I assume that you have means of obtaining the Norstad progress report from the JCS, so I shall not go into details here except to say that the military actions envisaged range all the way from such psychological measures as leave cancellations to redeployment of our forces in Germany to constitute a task force in the Marienburg area where the autobahn to Berlin crosses the present boundary between East and West Germany.

If you do have difficulties in obtaining from the JCS the present progress report and those which will shortly follow, please let me know and I shall endeavor to remedy the deficiency.

Sincerely,

Ray L. Thurston
Counselor of Embassy

B. E. L. Timmons, Esquire,
Director, Office of European Regional Affairs,
Department of State,
Washington, D. C.

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